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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Syria

DATE DISTR. 25 Oct. 1949

SUBJECT Pre-Election Activities

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

PLACE

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

- 25X1X 1. [REDACTED] discord within the Syrian Cabinet over the issues of the election and federation with Iraq is increasing. The political parties are divided within themselves while the population looks on apathetically, although there is a growing belief that the elections will be prevented, either by an internal political dispute, by armed Hashimite intervention, or by intrigue in behalf of ex-President Shukri Quwwatli, source alleges. Concerning the last possibility, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- 25X1X [REDACTED] popular opposition to the return of Quwwatli to Syria is now diminishing rapidly.**
2. Rushdi Kikhya, Minister of the Interior, has secured the retransfer of the Gendarmerie from the Army to his control, and Kikhya is now considered to be the strongest minister and able to control the elections in favor of the Popular Party, source states.***
- 25X1X 3. [REDACTED] the Nationalist Party has declared publicly its intention of boycotting the elections, but several of its members intend to run as independents.
4. One recent electoral agreement between the Popular Party, the Resurrection Party, and the Ikhwan al-Muslimin now has been abandoned, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- 25X1X [REDACTED]
5. Hasan Hakim, pro-'Abdullah proponent in Syria, has been unsuccessful in forming an electoral list, and the idea of a Syrian union with Jordan still has very little support, source states. Sami Kabbarah, Syrian Minister of Justice, will no longer cooperate with the pro-'Abdullah movement and is to run independently, [REDACTED] **** 25X1X

Document No. 3

No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S (C)

Auth.: HR 76-2

Date: 25 MAY 1979

By: 026

BY CABLE

Code

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6. In view of the general disintegration of political alliances, the independents are likely to prove the most important factor in the forthcoming elections, [REDACTED] 25X1X

7. According to informant, a state of grave tension exists in Hama, where Akram Haurani, Syrian Minister of Agriculture, has stirred up the population against the ruling feudal families.*****

25X1X 8. [REDACTED] the Syrian Government is most concerned over reports of French subvention of the pro-French election candidates. [REDACTED] 25X1X feeling in the Alawite territory is running high against the preponderance of Sunni Moslem administrators and, therefore, the electoral trend in that territory is toward the complete elimination of all non-Alawite candidates.

25X1X 9. [REDACTED] several Syrian Army officers met in Damascus during the week prior to 14 October 1949 to protest against the present Syrian negotiations for federation with Iraq. [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] Alawite officers are being removed from the General Staff of the Army.

25X1A [REDACTED]

25X1A [REDACTED]

25X1A [REDACTED]

25X1A [REDACTED]

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